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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/584,759

07/21/2006

Rudolf Hirschmanner

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LERNER GREENBERG STEMER LLP  
P O BOX 2480  
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HOANG M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3748

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/30/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/584,759	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HIRSCHMANNER, RUDOLF	
	<b>Examiner</b> Hoang M. Nguyen	<b>Art Unit</b> 3748	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 April 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

Applicant's amendment dated April 30, 2008, has been fully considered.

Applicant argued Laing does not disclose an annular gas chamber divided, in a radial direction, into a plurality of ring-cylindrical partial chambers, wherein the annular gas chamber surrounds the heat exchanger, and the annular chamber that is configured to radially conduct heat away from the heat exchanger. The Examiner disagrees. First, both heater 1 and condenser 3 in Laing are rotating heat exchangers, so they are rotors as claimed. Second, the annular chamber can be the inner chamber inside the overall housing 6, said inner chamber contains both said rotating heater 1 and condenser 3. Because said heater 1 and condenser 3 have many containers and rows of tubes 31, 121, said annular gas chamber (inner chamber) can be considered divided in radial direction as argued by Applicant. Third, the outermost row of tubes 31 of the condenser 3 clearly conduct heat away from the condenser 3 as claimed (note the arrow 351 in figure 1).

Applicant argued the combination of Laing and Kronogard does not teach the concept of radially dissipating heat away from the second heat exchanger, through the gas chamber and away from the heat exchanger. As noted above, Laing clearly discloses the outermost row of tubes 31 of the condenser 3 conducts heat away from the condenser 3 near arrow 351, and that meets the claimed limitation.

For the reasons set forth above, the rejections have been maintained and this Office Action has been made FINAL.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 25, 27-29, 32-33, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4004426 (Laing).

Laing discloses a thermal prime mover comprising two rotating heat exchangers (1, 36) consisting a heater 1 and a cooler 36, each said heat exchanger comprising many tubes 31, 121, with gas passages, many gas chambers 15 inside each said heat exchanger. Please note ambient air is used in both heat exchangers, especially the condenser 36 uses ambient air for heat transfer purpose.

Regarding claims 27-28, valves 154 controlling the pressures inside the heat exchanger.

Regarding claims 29, 32-33, there are more than 4 tubes inside said heat exchangers.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

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the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 16-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4004426 (Laing) in view of U.S. 3956899 (Kronogard). Laing discloses all the claimed subject matter as set forth above in the rejection of claim 25, but does not disclose the steps of compressing the medium while giving off heat, expanding the medium, then guiding the medium through a second heat exchanger. Kronogard is relied upon to disclose a gas turbine system comprising a compressor 15 inside the cooler to compress gas while giving off heat, expanding said medium in turbine stages 13-14 inside other heat exchangers 18, 19. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide gas turbine system in place of the fluid-driven engine of Laing as taught by Kronogard for the purpose of performing the same functions: generating mechanical energy. Regarding claims 20-22, it would have been obvious for a person having skills in the art to elect different temperatures for the purpose of generating appropriate power output.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4004426 (Laing) in view of U.S. 4781241 (Misage et al). Laing discloses all the claimed subject matter as set forth above in the rejection of claim 25, but does not disclose different gases are used in the heat exchangers. Misage et al is relied upon to disclose a heat exchangers using different gases in the heat exchanger tubes (note column 3, lines 55-68). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to use different gases in the heat exchangers of Laing as taught by Misage et al for the purpose of achieving appropriate heat exchange rates.

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4004426 (Laing) in view of DE 3807783. Laing discloses all the claimed subject matter as set forth above in the rejection of claim 25, but does not disclose the fluid is going through the shaft. DE 3807783 is relied upon to disclose it's well known to direct fluid through a shaft 27 (see figure 1). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to direct fluid through the shaft of Laing as taught by DE 3807783 for the purpose of achieving a compact structure.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4004426 (Laing) in view of US 6491141 (Severinsson). Laing discloses all the claimed subject matter as set forth above in the rejection of claim 25, but does not disclose the magnet lock of the housing. Severinsson teaches it's well known in the art to use magnet lock 13 for a housing. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide a magnet lock in Laing as taught by Severinsson for the purpose of locking the housing if needed.

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Examiner Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4861. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday--Friday from 12:30 AM to 10:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas E. Denion can be reached on 571-272-4859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Hoang M Nguyen/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3748

HOANG NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 3748

Hoang Minh Nguyen  
7/3/2008